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Agenda item 73

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

(a) REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

(b) REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

(c) ADVISORY BOARD ON DISARMAMENT MATTERS

(d) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

(e) CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Report of the First Committee (Part XIV)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Parfait-Serge ONANGA-ANYANGA (Gabon)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The First Committee considered agenda item 73 jointly with all the other items relating to disarmament and international security (for details, see A/51/566). For the documents before the Committee under item 73, see A/51/566, paragraph 3.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

2. On 21 October, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Committee on Disarmament" (A/C.1/51/L.1), submitted by Costa

* The reports of the Committee on all the agenda items relating to disarmament and international security (items 60, 61 and 63-81) will be issued under the symbol A/51/566 and addenda.

Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Greece, Ireland, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malaysia, Portugal, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Tunisia.

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.1/Rev.1

3. At the 14th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Ireland, on behalf of the same sponsors, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/51/L.1/Rev.1).

4. At its 24th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.1/Rev.1 by 144 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Turkey, United States of America.

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[1] The representatives of Mauritius, Nigeria and Paraguay subsequently indicated that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.5 and Rev.1

5. At the 16th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Germany, in his capacity as Chairman of the Disarmament Commission and on behalf of Colombia, Finland, Germany, Jordan, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the United Republic of Tanzania, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/51/L.5).

6. On 7 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/51/L.5/Rev.1), submitted by the same sponsors, which contained the following changes:

(a) Operative paragraph 4, which had read:

"4. Notes with satisfaction that the Disarmament Commission has made significant progress in achieving agreement on its agenda item regarding the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament"

was revised to read:

"4. Notes with satisfaction that the Disarmament Commission has made significant progress in the discussions on its agenda item regarding the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament";

(b) Operative paragraphs 9 (a) and (b), which had read:

"(a) [to be added]

"(b) [to be added]"

were revised to read:

"(a) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned;

"(b) The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament";

(c) The footnote to paragraph 9 (c), which had read:

"The new item will be decided by the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 organizational session"

was revised to read:

"The new item on conventional weapons will be decided by the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 organizational session".

7. At its 23rd meeting, on 14 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.5/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution B).

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.25

8. At the 17th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Poland, in his capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/51/L.25), and orally revised it by deleting the fourth preambular paragraph, which read:

> "Welcoming the conclusion of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the draft comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, which has reaffirmed the need for and the importance of the Conference as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community".

9. At its 23rd meeting, on 14 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.25, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution C).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

A

Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament[2] and in particular that section concerning expansion of the membership of the Conference,

Stressing the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral global negotiating body on disarmament,

Convinced that a more representative membership of the Conference on Disarmament from among the United Nations would contribute to the more effective pursuit of disarmament goals affecting the entire international community,

Recalling that, since 1978, when agreement was reached at the First Special Session on Disarmament that the membership of the then Committee on Disarmament would be reviewed at regular intervals, there have been thirty-seven applications for membership of the Conference,

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[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/51/27).

Recalling that, in 1993, the Special Coordinator for Membership of the Conference on Disarmament proposed that twenty-three applicants for membership be admitted to the Conference and proposed further that a dynamic solution to the question of membership should be pursued,

Recalling decision CD/1406 of the Conference on Disarmament, adopted at its 739th plenary meeting on 17 June 1996, admitting twenty-three countries as members of the Conference,[3]

Recalling its resolution 50/72 C of 12 December 1995, adopted without a vote, in which it urged that, following the presentation of progress reports by the President of the Conference, the other applicants to date be further considered by the Conference at its 1996 session,

Noting the request of the Conference on Disarmament that its President continue consultations on a further expansion of its membership and report to it at the beginning of its 1997 session,

1. Recognizes the legitimate aspirations of all countries that have applied for membership to participate fully in the work of the Conference on Disarmament;

2. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to consider all remaining applications for membership with a view to reaching a decision on its further enlargement before the end of its 1997 session.

B

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[4]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994 and 50/72 D of 12 December 1995,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. Takes note of the report of the Disarmament Commission;

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[3] Ibid., para. 16.

[4] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42).

2. Commends the Disarmament Commission for its adoption by consensus, at its 1996 substantive session, of a set of guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991,[5] which were recommended to the Assembly for consideration;

3. Endorses the guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, as adopted by the Disarmament Commission;

4. Notes with satisfaction that the Disarmament Commission has made significant progress in the discussions on its agenda item regarding the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

5. Reaffirms the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. Also reaffirms the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

7. Encourages the Disarmament Commission to continue to make every effort to enhance its working methods so as to enable it to give focused consideration to a limited number of priority issues in the field of disarmament, bearing in mind the decision it has taken to move its agenda towards a three-item phased approach;

8. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[6] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[7]

9. Recommends that, pursuant to the adopted three-item phased approach, the Disarmament Commission, at its 1996 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 1997 substantive session:

(a) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned;

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[5] Ibid., annex I.

[6] Resolution S-10/2.

[7] A/CN.10/137.

(b) The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(c) [to be added];[8]

10. Requests the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1997 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[2] together with all the official records of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

C

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[2]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Considering, in this respect, that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

1. Reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. Welcomes the determination of the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

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[8] The new item on conventional weapons will be decided by the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 organizational session.

3. Welcomes the decision taken by the Conference on Disarmament on 17 June 1996 to expand its membership with the admission of twenty-three new members;[3]

4. Encourages the Conference on Disarmament to continue further review of its membership;

5. Also encourages the Conference on Disarmament to further intensify the ongoing review of its agenda and methods of work;

6. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a consensus on its agenda and programme of work at the beginning of its 1997 session;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

8. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".